

SHIPBUILDING NOW ONE OF MOST ACTIVITY OF ALL U. S. OCCUPATIONS

(By Associated Press.)
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 27.—More than one-third of the war vessels and merchant ships called for by the program of the United States government are being built in shipyards along the Delaware river, according to figures which have just been made public with the permission of the emergency fleet corporation. The tonnage contracted for, according to government officials, has transformed the Delaware valley into the greatest shipbuilding center in the world.

W. B. Ferguson, a representative of the emergency fleet corporation, estimates that an army of about 85,000 shipworkers will be required to complete the 272 ships, including war vessels, contracted for by the eleven shipbuilding plants between Trenton and Delaware City. Work on 120 cargo-carriers at the new government yard at Hog Island is progressing and this plant is engaged to turn out 6,000,000 additional tons in 1918. More than 2,500,000 tons will be the Delaware river's first quota in the fleet which Uncle Sam relies on to help win the war.

At the new shipyard at Bristol, Pa., forty ships are contracted for. Here more than 5,000 men are at work and it is expected that 10,000 more will be necessary to complete the vessels on schedule.

Ten vessels are being constructed at another new yard at Cornwells, Pa. The force there of 500 men will be increased to 2,000. At a well known Philadelphia shipbuilding plant more than sixty ships are to be turned out. Most of these are government craft on which more than 5,000 men are engaged. Another thousand are needed.

In the big yard at Camden, N. J., across the river from Philadelphia, 7,200 men are building twenty-four ships. More workers are needed here also.

Two yards at Gloucester, N. J., are turning out sixteen ships with a force of about 3,000 men. Twice this number of shipworkers is needed.

Two large plants, one a new one, at Chester, Pa., have contracted for eighteen and twenty-six ships, respectively. One plant has only 1,700 men on the payroll and requires at least 3,000 more, according to the

government figures. The other yard is employing 2,000 men, whereas at least 5,000 are necessary to complete its contracts.

The plant at Hog Island is now employing about 10,000 workers and officials there estimate that at least 32,000 are needed.

Work in one plant at Wilmington, Del., is progressing on thirteen ships on which 2,800 men are employed. This company is in the market for another 1,000 workers. At another plant in that city eight ships are being built by a force of 1,000 men and officials require 1,600 more.

A drive under the auspices of the government is now being conducted throughout the country to register all men in the eighty-seven trades allied with shipbuilding. Many of these mechanics are now engaged in other occupations and it is planned to transfer them to the seaboard without disturbing industry.

Labor difficulties and shortage of steel and other materials, it is expected, will treble the original estimate of the cost of the ships contracted for. Recent investigation of the Delaware river plants indicated that most of the vessels being built will be completed on schedule time.

PROBING INTO THE DETAILS OF THE AFFAIRS AT CHICAGO STOCKYARDS

(By Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 27.—On cross-examination John E. O'Hara, general superintendent for Armour & Co., admitted that a basic eight-hour day for stockyard employees would not reduce the packers' output or interfere with the adequate supply of foodstuffs to the military forces of this country and its allies during the war. He said it simply would cost more to operate through the payment of extra compensation for overtime. The witness explained, however, that if the arbitrators finding was for a basic eight-hour day, the inference would be that ten hours is too long for the men to

work. An actual eight-hour day, he said, would seriously interfere with the efforts of the packers to meet the government's and country's needs during the period of the war.

"Do you agree with the report of the president's mediation commission that the wages paid unskilled stockyard laborers are inadequate in view of the increased cost of living?" asked Attorney Frank P. Walsh.

"They are in line with wages paid by other industries for the same class of labor," replied the witness. "Our scale may be slightly below the average paid in Chicago, but I believe it compares favorably in Kansas City, Omaha and other outside

cities. I think the cost of living has increased about 40 per cent. We have increased our wages 57 per cent in two years."

The witness said that the four increases made by the packers since 1916 had been decided upon without consulting the men and without an investigation regarding the increased cost of living.

Everett C. Brown, president of the Chicago Live Stock exchange, testified concerning the receipt of live stock at the stockyards and said that more than half the total receipts reached the city during four or five months of the year. He read statistics showing the total receipts for various years and said that the high prices of the last two years had not stimulated production to any large extent. Receipts were larger fifteen years ago than last year.

On cross-examination the witness admitted that the packers bought about 60 per cent of all live stock received in Chicago and that when the packers shut down their plants it had a depressing effect on prices. "Did you ever know of the packers shutting down when they had live stock on hand?" asked Mr. Walsh. "They shut down from time to time when they have live stock on hand, but I am told it is because of broken machinery or some other cause."

Among the visitors at the hearing

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GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS ORDERED

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Government control of the fertilizer industry was ordered by President Wilson last night in a proclamation requiring manufacturers and distributors to obtain licenses from the secretary of agriculture on or before March 26. Authority for the action is contained in the food control law.

Licenses must be obtained not only by makers, importers, storers and sellers of fertilizer itself, but of its ingredients as well. Applications for licenses will be made to the food administration, but they will be issued by Secretary Houston, who is charged in the proclamation with enforcement of regulations to be issued.

Dealers in some fertilizer ingredients, including ammonia and its compounds, already are under license by the food administration and they are excepted in the proclamation. Among the ingredients not already under license and now put under control are sulphuric acid, phosphate rock, bones, sodium nitrate, potash salts, cement and blast furnace dust, wood ashes, cottonseed hull and meal, potassium nitrate and tobacco waste.

The following board has been named by Secretary Houston to carry out the provisions of the proclamation: Charles W. Merrill, C. L. Alsberg, Karl F. Kellerman, A. E. Taylor, F. W. Brown and L. L. Summers.

MORTALITY LIST IN THE AMERICAN ARMY

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—The death of one man in action, of two others from wounds received in action, and a fourth from a gun explosion were reported to the war department today by General Pershing. The dispatch also gave the names of four men slightly wounded on the fighting line.

Private James J. Regnerin of Oak-kosh, Wis., was killed in action on February 18, and Privates Edward F. Hernon, Brooklyn, and David Hickey, St. Louis, have died from wounds received in action. Corporal Anthony J. Schrader, Brooklyn, died from wounds received in the explosion of a gun.

The men wounded were: Private Adelbert Morey, Lewiston, Minn.; Private Bennie Tauchus, Brockton, Mass.; Private Hugh H. Gilmore, Louisville, Ky., all on February 25, and John P. King, Springdale, Ark., February 25. King's rank was not given.

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NEARLY ALL U. S. SOLDIERS ARE INSURED

(By Associated Press.)
CAMP LEWIS, Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 27.—Despite the fact that 97 per cent of the 32,510 men at Camp Lewis were signed up for a total of \$282,000,000 war risk insurance, the campaign which had as its slogan, "Insure every officer and soldier in the 91st division," did not relax until the last minute. When the time limit expired February 12 there were but a comparatively few uninsured soldiers in the campment. Figures will be available soon giving the total insurance written for the men of the "Wild West" division.

During the closing week Camp Lewis led every campment in the United States, although closely pressed by Camp Upton, New York. The latest figures showed that 31,200 men at this camp had taken out policies. The great majority are insured for the maximum of \$10,000.

Many organizations claim the distinction of being 100 per cent insured. This means that every man in the company holds a policy and all but one or two have the maximum. Those who failed to take the maximum already were carrying policies in old line companies. Company commanders approached by

men seeking to transfer into their units recently have made it a point to ascertain that the application carried a \$10,000 policy. Enlisted men who failed to take out insurance are not sought by any organization.

During the final days of the campaign in behalf of insurance many methods of interesting the delinquents were adopted. Films were exhibited at the Liberty theatre portraying the benefits of insurance and brief talks were made between acts at regimental entertainments in the "Y's," and the men were exhorted by their officers and by placards in barracks to insure.

The maximum policies cost the men approximately \$6 monthly, depending on the age. In event a soldier carrying \$10,000 insurance makes the supreme sacrifice, his dependents will receive \$57.50 per month for twenty years. The policy calls for the payment of this sum to the soldier should he be totally disabled during the war. Within five years of the close of the war the policy holders will have the privilege of converting their policies into any form of insurance prescribed by the government, without medical examination. Such converted policies will be at net premiums

INSTITUTIONS GIVE SOLDIERS PLEASURE

(By Associated Press.)
CAMP LEWIS, Tacoma, Wash., Feb. 27.—The popularity of the institutions maintained by the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. for the entertainment and the welfare of the soldiers and visitors to Camp Lewis is reflected by the attendance figures for the past month. During that period 396,018 men visited the camp "Y" building, and between 30,000 and 60,000 used the conveniences extended by the Y. W. C. A. hostess house. The hostess house cafeteria served 38,174 meals in January.

Relatives and friends can thank the Y. M. C. A. for \$1,446 pieces of mail, written on the association's stationery in the various halls. The soldiers are constantly urged by the Y. M. C. A. managers to write letters home.

The attendance at the "Y's" shows an increase from month to month, attesting to a growing popularity. The men find not only comfortable quarters for reading and writing, but entertainments are constantly being staged and educational lectures delivered. Church services are held each Sunday.

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were Jackson L. Spangler of Bell-forte, Pa., and Vernon Z. Reed of Denver, members of the president's mediation commission, who stopped over en route to Minneapolis, where they are going to settle a street car strike; Louis F. Swift and "Mother" Jones, an organizer for the United Mine Workers, who is on her way west.

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